ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1906.

VOL. XXIV-NO. 17-WHOLE NO. 1275.

War of the Rebellion

OPENING OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

By JOHN McELROY.

XLII.

THE ARMY'S DARKEST HOUR. Beginning of the Regular Siege-Reorganisation - Terrific Bombardment. Failed-Another Gallant Assault and Sanguinary Repulse.

At 6 o'clock on the morning following the doleful May 27 Gen. Banks sent the life there: a flag of truce to Gen. Gardner, requesting a suspension of hostilities until 2 o'clock, to enable the dead and wounded to be brought off the field.

Gen. Gardner replied that he would grant it, on condition that Banks withdraw all his men to a distance of 800 positions.

Banks declined to do this, but reonly unarmed parties to carry off the dead and wounded. Some 12 letters were exchanged on the subject, consuming three-fourths of the day. Gard- der water. ner complained that men were working on batteries and skirmishers were pushing forward, and Banks replied that he and the skirmishers to halt. Finally a

to run from 3 o'clock. Farragut sent a note to Banks suggesting that he attack along the river bank, beyond the flank of the rebel lines, where the fleet could assist him with its fire, but somehow this plan did not commend itself to Banks.

While the dead and wounded were being brought in Banks's men were making good use of the time in carefully studying the positions in front and laying their plans for establishing batteries and lines of investment.

On the morning of May 29 the real work of the siege began, with the troops taking up substantially the positions they had gained during the assault of May 27. The Engineers went busily to work designating positions for batteries. tracing lines for breastworks and suracross the ravines, to bring all parts of the army into ready communication The shortened line enabled the divisions to be closed up on one another and the

Brig.-Gen. Richard Arnold, the Chief of Artillery, was ordered to bring up the siege artillery, which was manned by the 1st Ind. H. A., and it was rapidly emplaced, with the field guns, behind suitable cover. Altogether, Col. Irwin says, there were 40 heavy pieces, of which six were eight-inch seacoast howitzers, eight 24-pounders, seven 30pounders, four six-inch rifles, four nine inch Dahlgrens, four eight-inch mortars three 10-inch mortars and four 13-inch mortars. Beside these were 60 field pieces, ranging from six to 20-pounders.

The nine-inch Dahlgrens were lent by the fleet, and were mounted in battery and worked throughout the siege by three gun's crews (51 men) from the Richmond and one crew (11 men) from the Essex. They were under command of Lieut.-Commander Edward Terry, of the Richmond, and did splendid service. The battery was first established 748 yards from the enemy's works, but later advanced to 340 yards.

Gen. Banks reorganized his army, in preparation for the new phase of operations. Despairing of getting any rein forcements from Gen. Grant, he stripped the Teche country of the slender garrisons he had left to guard the roads to New Orleans and gained eight regiments, which he distributed around to make good to the various divisions the losses sustained in the assault.

Gen. Geo. L. Andrews returned to his position as Chief of Staff, and Gen. Dwight was assigned to the command of Sherman's Division, and it and Augur's Division were made the Left Wing, under command of Gen. Augur. The Right Wing, composed of Grover's and Weitzel's Divisions, was placed un-Cavalry in standing off Logan's Cavalry, a-la Rose for a fortnight. the country outside and besieging the mentors:

Atchafalaya and Alabama, a position of the highest strategic importance, since it controlled so large a portion of the communications of western Louisiana and Texas. The place itself was raised but slightly above the surface of the Summons to Surrender-A Bluff that water, and tradition is that the Indians had built it as a refuge from the floods. In the very excellent history of the 16th N. H., by Adj't Townsend, the following description is given of the place and

"When we took possession, Butte-ala-Rose was essentially a little island surrounded for miles with water, excepting on the west, where land could be reached through a swamp at a distance of five or six miles.

"At the north, also, there were two or three plantations on the shores of the Atchafalaya that were not entirely yards and that the vessels in the river under water; but at the south, as far cease firing and return to their original as Brashear City, and east, as far as Port Hudson, even the arable land was covered with water in many places to the depth of from seven to 10 feet, so newed his request, and promised to send that the small, flat-bottomed sternwheel steamers that ply in those waters were sailing at that time through dooryards and over corn and cane fields Nearly all fencing was out of sight un-

"Butte-a-la-Rose, aside from being a very strategic position from a military point of view, proved also to be such from several other points of view. It almost continuous splashing, which was was the grand rendezvous of mosqui-doleful enough in those desolate rehad sent orders for the work to cease was the grand rendezvous of mosquitoes, fleas, wood-ticks, lice, lizards, gions, and more than once those treachtruce of four hours was agreed upon, dysentery microbes, and every confrogs, snakes, alligators, fever bacteria, ceivable type of malarial poison. "From about sunset till daylight the in near to our barracks for safety. mosquitoes came upon us in dense battalions. Had it not been for the mo-

"For miles on still nights the croaking of frogs and hooting of owls could bold and numerous that they some-



way while we were passing between the barracks.

ing and killing their prey kept up an erous and ravenous creatures compelled our pickets, who at night were not allowed to fire upon them, to move "We must not forget in this enum-

"Alligators, too, at night while hunteration of pests that we had, neverthe-

NEAR BUTTE-A-LA-ROSE - BUSH-WHACKERS FIRING ON FEDERAL times had to be shot out of our pathadded to their blood.

O OPELOUSAS PORT HUDSON O BAYOUS SWAMPS BARRACKS . RAYOUS BAYOUS BAYOUS SWAMPS FORESTS BUTTE A LA ROSE AND FORT BURTON SURROUNDED BY BRIDGE

BUTTE-A-LA-ROSE AND FT. BENTON.

now called the 3d Mass. Cav., and assigned to Grierson.

These little rascals are comparatively quaintance and courting our friendship. The siege batteries, which were numbered from 1 to 24 word and play at the approach of night their would drop into our hands and play at Edwin M. Chamberlin; 18th N. Y. Battery of Mass. Battery (one section), Lieut. Solid in those detestable surroundings, to be desirous of making our action, our quaintance and courting our friendship. Mass. Battery, Lieut. John F. Phelps; civil and respectful during the day, but at the approach of night their would drop into our hands and play at Edwin M. Chamberlin; 18th N. Y. Battery (one section).

"Almost from the date of taking poslar disadvantage. We had no sutler and scarcely any sutler's supplies. Our sutler had gone North with the body of his son, who was killed April 13 by Maj. Harai Robinson; 2d R. I. Cav. falling from the cars on the passage from New Orleans to Brashear City The afflicted father, who by his genia nature had won our esteem, had the heartiest sympathy of our men when

"As the days wore on, we found ourselves without lemons, oranges, or fruit of any kind, for which we had an intense craving in consequence of the lifferent kinds of fever that had begun

The discomfort of those who were deprived of tobacco was especially wood; 28th Me. (detachment), Col. noticeable, and any of our readers who have used tobacco for years and then suddenly have been deprived of it know John Gray; 177th N. Y., Col. Ira W. Strated under all possible conditions of service. In numberless encounters they had shown themselves superior to evening of the 3d, and were, it is best to capture of it know John Gray; 177th N. Y., Col. Ira W. Strated under all possible conditions of service. In numberless encounters they had shown themselves superior to evening of the 3d, and were, it is best to capture of the superior to be a suddenly have been deprived of it know

thank nature and art for gauze and be provided, as they would prove a most excellent prescription for such of our men as were suffering from chills. "A stack of recommendations extollbe heard, and were at first amusing but ing their merits and enumerating the cases of Hostetter's Bitters were put on

the invoice. "Those bitters with other goods reached Butte-a-la-Rose in safety, and were sold to those who could pay for them and given to those who were without funds. But some of the men, who probably were more chilly than the others, took overdoses, and in conequence became staggering drunk.

The Adjutant, therefore, had mortification of discovering that perance Society of the regiment, he had furnished almost pure whisky to the men under the label Hostetter's Bitters. But as no ill had been intended he was not deposed from office.

"We not only were without a sutler at that time, but our Chaplain, in consequence of sickness, had gone North master was not with us, and most of the time during our stay at Butte-aa-Rose we were without a Surgeon. "Dr. Campbell had died; Dr. Sanborn was North on a furlough; Dr. Fisk, besides being overworked, had been assigned duty, if we remember correctly, at Brashear City, and Dr. Sleeper was late in reporting, though, as we recall the facts, it was without fault on his "Meanwhile our men were sickening

rapidly and dying almost daily. Had it not been that occasionally a negro or poor white would come to the garrison with a row-boat load of fresh vegetables, together with a few berries and eggs and a small quantity of poultry, which were exchanged for coffee and tea, we must have famished, in our sick and nauseated condition, on such rations as the Government then supplied. "The atmosphere a little after sunfall and on through the night was almost insufferable, and our sick men when breathing it were conscious that every breath was so much more poison

"There must have been on our rolls at one time or another while we were at Butte-a-la-Rose not fewer than 600 or 700 men. But under date of May 26 the regiment could muster only 150

"It should be borne in mind, too, that many of our number, in consequence of previous exposures and hardships, were sick and debilitated when they reached that place. As would be expected, a more pitiful sight than our regiment presented during the last two weeks of our stay at Butte-a-la-Rose hardly can be imagined. "Wasted away by various forms of disease, men who had weighed 200

pounds or more were reduced to half nary weight was considerably above 200 pounds, could not tip the scales

"Some of our men were covered with burning and painful eruptions, others were yellow as saffron, others were shaking with ague, others were bloated and the mercury hovered in unpleasant mand being scarcely aware of any obwith dropsy, and all were sallow and emaciated."

The men and officers begged earnest ly to be relieved and sent to some other completed to Stephenson's Depot, four post of duty, but the place was so im-portant and the need of men so great that this could not be done until Banks decided to abandon the whole country thus providing a well-stocked commisson. The 16th N. H. was of small value forage for the horses; a condition of as a reinforcement, because, as Col. affluence which went far towards comsome aggravated form of hepatic disor- weather. der, due to malarial poisoning, and even the men that were called well were all tions afforded by the social life of the good fortune to share in the final over-town; the assurance of the continued throw of Early's forces. der, due to malarial poisoning, and even Rumors there were of other alleviayellow, emaciated and restless, or so town; the assurance of the continued drowsy that the sentries would go to sleep on their posts at midday. It was decided, therefore, to retire the reginal decided, therefore, to retire the reginal decided and crushed by the regiments helps as the regiments hel

Organization of the Army. The organization of the army, as given May 31, was as follows:

Maj.-Gen. Christopher C. Augur. First Brigade-Col. Chas. J. Paine-2d La., Lieut.-Col. Charles Everett; 21st Me., Col. Elijah D. Johnson; 48th Mass., Col. Eben F. Stone; 49th Mass., Maj. Charles T. Plunkett; 116th N. Y., Capt.

Corps d'Afrique, Col. Justin Hodge; 1st Lieut.-Col. Augustus W. Corliss,

Brig.-Gen. William Dwight.

First Brigade—Col. Thomas S. Clark—26th Conn., Lieut.-Col. J. Selden; 6th Mich., Lieut.-Col. E. Bacon; 15th N. H., Col. John W. Kingman; 128th N. Y., Lieut.-Col. James Smith; 162d N. Y., Lieut.-Col. Justus W. idence those which had proved effec-Blanchard

WINCHESTER TO APPOMATTOX.

afterwards distressing. The moccasin remarkable cures wrought by them was snakes, whose bite is deadly, were so furnished, and accordingly two or three Service of the Cavalry in the Last Two Months of the War. dragged through the red clay of the snakes, whose bite is deadly, were so furnished, and accordingly two or three A Wonder'ul Record of Severe and Brilliantly Successful morning of the 6th we bade our hos-Work.

By MOSES HARRIS, Major, 1st U. S. Cav., Retired.

GETTING THE TRAIN THROUGH THE MUD.

proximity to the zero point for days in struction.

succession. The railroad had been

miles from Winchester, and supplies

were hauled from that point in wagons;

and, as usual, had the inside track.

reedom from all care.

A Magnificent Cavalry Force.

intelligence, free citizens of a free coun-

tive. With a versatility of resource

which can exist only with great intelli-

Early Would Fight.

means of transportation. The prisoners were sent back to Winchester with

At Charlottesville.

A magnificent force of cavalry it was. command was depleted to that extent,

things of Charlottesville, our comrades of the Reserve Brigade were having a hard time back with the wagons, which, with infinite toil, were being finally came up on the 5th; and on the pitable friends good-by, with the hope that they might, thenceforth, be spared all harsher experiences of war. could be seen that they felt that their cause was hopeless, although they professed unbounded faith in the ability of Gen. Lee and the courage of their soldiers. The columns marched in the The beginning of the year 1865 us no cordial greetings as we rode direction of Lynchburg; Custer's Divifound the First and Third Divisions along, but we remembered their harsh sion along the railroad, giving proper mortification of discovering that of the Temof the Cavalry Corps in camp in the pardoned their dark looks.

experience of the previous Summer and attention to its destruction, while Devin pardoned their dark looks. vicinity of Winchester, and the troops Upon reaching the North Fork of the ject. On the 7th we reached Howardswere directed to make their camps as Shenandoah, on the 28th, an attempt ville, on the James River, and on the comfortable as possible, with a view to was made to ford the stream, but after night of the 8th an unsuccessful attheir occupancy for a considerable several men and horses had been cartempt was made to seize the bridge at ried down by the swift current of the Duguidsville before it should be deperiod. The severity of the weather, swollen river, the pontoons were stroyed by the enemy, by a forced however, permitted only a moderate brought up, expeditiously laid, and the march, the horrors of which are still on leave of absence, and our Quarter- degree of comfort. Tentage and fuel command crossed with but slight delay. vivid. The condition of the roads was The advance guard struck Rosser the indescribably bad; the rain fell in torwere both scarce, while the horses were next day at Mount Crawford, but he rents, and the darkness of Egypt could entirely without shelter. Snow had was brushed aside with ease by the not have exceeded the thick blackness fallen to the depth of several inches, leading brigade, the rest of the com- which surrounded us. But we plunged along through the deep mud, encountering all sorts of obstacles, and keeping the road only with the greatest

Marching Around and Around.

It was afterwards reported that durng this night-march one of the divisions marched several times around an inclosed field before it was discovered that it was traveling in a circle; a circumstance which seemed so probable that nobody was inclined to doubt the truth of the report.

The unceasing rain and the difficulties of the march had told severely upon the horses, besides exercising a depressing influence upon the men; and there appeared to be a general feeling of relief and encouragement when, it having been found impossible to cross the James River, the column was headed towards the north and our armies.

The towpath of the canal (which was a narrow causeway between the canal and the river) appearing somewhat firmer than the country roads, an attempt was made to use it for the march of the column and the trains; but it soon became frightfully cut up, and its narrowness was such that the stalling of one team stopped everything in rear. While we were strung out in considerable confusion along this narrow way, wagons and mules mired down in front preventing all progress, some scouting parties of the enemy were seen on the opposite bank of the river, and the thought that a battery of artillery might open on us from that secure positon while we were in this predicament, was not comforting. However, the battery did not make its appearpath was abandoned for the roads farther back from the river, which, if not less muddy, afforded more freedom of movement. The canal was effectually destroyed by cutting the causeway between it and the river at various points, and blowing up the viaducts.

The Negro Refugees.

While marching through this region hitherto unvisited by the Union armies On March 2 we reached Staunton, many hundreds of negroes, men, wom-en and children, had joined the column where it was learned that Early was at Waynesboro, 10 miles away, and had in search of "freedom's land." declared his intention to fight there. were, for the most part, on foot, carry-The 1st U. S. Cav. was at this time on ing their worldly possessions in bunand bring up every man to Port Hud- sary for officers and men, and abundant duty at Gen. Sheridan's headquarters; dles and packs. Their condition was but Custer's Division having been or- one of almost absolute destitution, and dered on to Waynesboro to accept yet, with that freedom from troubleas a reinforcement, because, as Col. annuence which went far towards com-Irwin says, everyone was suffering from pensating for the adversities of the Early's challenge for a fight, the 1st some care which is the characteristic U. S. Cav., through some misapprehen- of their race, they were as cheerful and sion, followed in its wake and had the happy as they could have been had they

ment from the fighting line, to which the weight of Secession sentiment. It ment's delay, the regiments being asit had been assigned, and assign it to was even whispered that the allegiance signed to their positions as fast as they make effective use of their services in guard the general ammunition depot. Its place in Paine's Division was taken by the 28th Conn., brought from Penand that the "hated Yankees" had been through the town, when the general asfound less black than they had been painted. But, alas! these pleasures founded by the sounded the advance; the sunshine.

were not for the line. Those fortunate scattering shots of the skirmish line On this expedition, as on others of fellows of the staff were on the ground were followed by rattling volleys of like character, men and horses were musketry and some rapid discharges of subsisted by foraging liberally in the As the days wore away a restless feeling seemed to pervade the camps. All the talk and discussion about the camp
determined to the inside track.

As the days wore away a restless feeling seemed to pervade the camps. All with inspiriting yells and cheers, rushing down the talk and discussion about the camp
ed to the assault, we broke into column upon the approach of the Union troops, and went spleshing down. fires indicated an eagerness to be up and doing, to finish the work that still remained. It was not thought that the remained. It was not thought that the task was a light one, but there was an agreement of opinion that the Spring campaigns would result in the more or less complete overthrow of the Confed-ready well splashed, but as we dashed through this pasty mass with heads the confed-ready with heads the confed-ready well splashed, but as we dashed through this pasty mass with heads the confed-ready well splashed, but as we dashed the excesses of the men being general-through this pasty mass with heads eracy and collapse of the rebellion; and through this pasty mass, with heads ly confined to a liberal provision for so, when the order to march came, although unexpected, it was very welcome.

In though unexpected, it was very welcome.

In the leading regiment who is a like the leading regiment. On the morning of the 27th of Feb- troopers of the leading regiment who bacco was added to this free list; the ruary we bade a cheerful good-by to had been unhorsed, as they scrambled well-filled warehouses which were loour camps, and leaving the tents stand- out of the way, were suggestive of cated there supplying in great abunding, the long column was stretched out on the familiar Valley Pike, headed up the Valley. The desolate landscape, the blackend ruins of burnt buildings, the blackend ruins of burnt buildings, the land almost ceased, and we heard off the Virginia Central Railroad having deserted houses, and fields shorn of to the right and rear the victorious been in the meantime very thoroughly their fences, together with the gloomy shouts of Custer's men. The complete-destroyed for many miles. Gen. and lowering skies, presented anything ness of this victory was only marred Sheridan's ruse of a threatening adbut a cheerful picture; the inspiriting by the escape of Early and Rosser, who

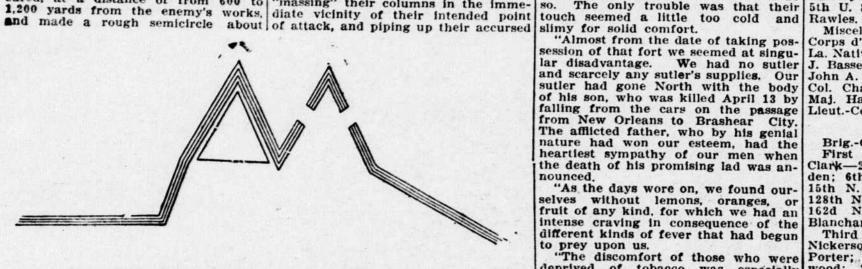
vance towards Richmond enabled the sense of movement and action was, wisely made prompt and effective use however, superior to all depressing in- of their horseflesh. The captures in without molestation at Mount Carmel fluences, and the way was cheered by this engagement were 1,600 prisoners, Church, on the morning of the 16th, without molestation, at Mount Carmel the jokes and laughter of the "bold 11 pieces of artillery, 17 battle-flags, and to reach the White House on the dragoons" as they rode along in happy and a large quantity of supplies and Pamunkey, where abundant supplies awaited us, on the 18th of March.

Moral Effect of March.

an escort of 1,500 men, by which the The rain which had fallen almost Ten thousand gallant troopers, men of it being impossible for them to rejoin. incessantly during the progress of this The Confederates were, of course, expedition had rendered it one of feartry, fighting for a cause which could but strengthen and confirm every courageous impulse. They had been eduated trained and some standard and severed by the strengthen and could agree the strengthen and could agree the strengthen and could be strengthen and could agree the strengthen and could agree the strengthen and could be strengthen and confirm every courage to the strengthen and confirm every courage to the strengthen and confirm every courage to the strengthen and could be cated, trained, and seasoned by years loss had any serious effort been made they were. Nearly one-third of the of most exacting service against an to hold it. As it was, our losses were horses had been abandoned on the enemy whose courage and tenacity of so trivial as hardly to be worth men- march or rendered totally unservicepurpose had won the admiration of tioning, while the moral effect of this able, while the worn and jaded condithe world. Free from all old-world theories and traditions, they had put to the test all means of offensive power most deserted, and, headquarters have fidence those which had proved effec- streets of the town, making use of the

ing come up, we bivouacked in the to perform.

streets of the town, making use of the Although the command was thus vacant buildings for shelter from the seriously depleted and weakened, there was no discouragement or want of soldierly spirit, and it was felt that the of battle they had charged successfully with the saber against infantry lines; and, fighting dismounted, they had re-



THE PRIEST-CAP NEAR THE JACKSON ROAD.

eight miles long, from Foster's Creek strains as a kind of prelude to com-

with miles long, from Foster's Creek strains as a kind of prelude to combined assaults upon those whose blood combined assaults upon those whose blood many the presence of th

der the command of Grover. Halbert squito bars, that were issued to us when less, some friends among the insect or Petten; 8th Vt., Lieut.-Col. Charles Dil-E. Paine's Division was brought to the center, to cover the Jackson road, the heavy artillery and assist Grierson's seemingly, could have lived at Butte-Cavalry in standing off Logan's Cavalry in standard in the cavalry in standard in the cavalry in standard in the cavalry in a very strong body of horsemen, who were cutting off communications with the country outside and beginning the country of our Northern homes in Summer time. Keating. The 41st Mass. had been mounted during the Teche Campaign, and was now called the 34 Mass. Cay and was now called the 34 Mass. Cay and a serious of those detestable surroundings.

bered from 1 to 24, were established in the best locations that could be secured, at a distance of from 600 to "massing" their columns in the immesession of that fort we seemed at singu- La. Native Guards, Lieut.-Col. Chauncey

the death of his promising lad was an-

Second Brigade-Col, Stephen Thom-

as-12th Conn., Lieut.-Col. Frank H. Peck; 75th N. Y., Col. Robert B. Merritt: 114th N. Y., Col. Elisha B. Smith; 160th N. Y., Lieut.-Col. John B. Van

Miscellaneous-1st La. Engineers

Third Brigade-Brig-Gen. Frank S. Nickerson—14th Me., Col. Thomas W. gence, their efficiency had been demonstrated; 24th Me., Col. George M. Atstrated under all possible conditions of